



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

June 15, 2009

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MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. T. Fujioka", is written over the printed name of the Chief Executive Officer.

State Budget Issue

In the May Revision to the State Budget, the Governor has proposed several consolidations and reforms of State Departments and functions. One of those proposals would eliminate the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA). Specifically, the proposal would transfer pest control activities to the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (within the California Environmental Protection Agency), transfer Weights and Measures activities to the California Department of General Services, and transfer oversight and administration of fairs and expositions to counties.

The County Agricultural Commissioner and Sealer of Weights and Measures (Agricultural Commissioner) indicates that it is unclear how transferring functions of CDFA to other agencies would result in any significant savings; in fact, the transfer may actually increase costs. The Agricultural Commissioner notes that the CDFA has over a 125 year history of coordinating agricultural issues of local concern to counties and effectively working with the United States Department of Agriculture for Federal funding for vital agricultural programs. Los Angeles County has been the point of introduction of exotic pests for decades because of our massive seaport and airfreight operations. If the effectiveness and efficiencies of our cooperative efforts with the CDFA were to cease or be diminished, reductions in pest control and eradication responses could result that would threaten the agricultural industry here and throughout the State. The Commissioner also is concerned about the transfer of Weights and Measures activities, which are essentially regulatory, to the Department of General Services which has no

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regulatory authority, and the lack of resources within counties to fund and support county fairs.

The Senate Committee on Food and Agriculture is scheduled to meet on June 16, 2009 to consider this proposal. Senator Fran Pavley is a member of that Committee. The Agricultural Commissioner will be contacting staff in Senator Pavley's office prior to the meeting to provide technical assistance and information regarding these concerns.

We will continue to keep you advised.

WTF:GK
MR:MS:er

c: All Department Heads
Legislative Strategist